

JOHN F. O'BRIEN
DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF LAW
NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL OF LAW

John F. O'Brien has been dean of New England School of Law since 1988 and has the longest continuous service at a single institution of any law school dean in the country. A native of Staten Island, New York, he received a B.A. in 1973 from Manhattan College; a J.D. in 1977 from New England School of Law, where he graduated first in his class; and an LL.M. (Master's in Law) in taxation in 1980 from Boston University School of Law. From 1977 to 1985, he was a senior attorney in the Office of the Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service, heading the northeast region's tax shelter program. He joined the faculty of New England School of Law in 1985, teaching Constitutional Law and Federal Income Taxation, and served as associate dean for two years before being named dean. Although a resident of Massachusetts since 1974, he remains a diehard Yankees fan.

Dean O'Brien headed the law school's successful efforts to achieve membership in the prestigious Association of American Law Schools. He has brought widespread recognition to the law school by attracting a broad range of distinguished speakers, including Justices Anthony M. Kennedy, Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, and Clarence Thomas; Dr. Hans Blix; Attorney General Janet Reno; and United States Senator John F. Kerry.

Dean O'Brien is currently a member of the Council of the American Bar Association's Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. He previously served as chair of the American Bar Association's Accreditation Committee, which reviews all nationally accredited American law schools and oversees efforts to uphold standards set by the Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. Before serving as chair of the Accreditation Committee, he was involved in the accreditation process, serving as special fact-finder and as both member and chair of law school evaluation teams. He has also served as chair of the American Bar Association's Independent Law Schools Committee.

Dean O'Brien is admitted to practice law in Massachusetts, the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, the United States Tax Court, and the United States Supreme Court.